

THE BRIDGEPORT TIMES

"Open The Door, Let The Republican Party In"—A. M. Cooper

Washington Waits Split Has Conference Report From Labor Board Machine Delegates Ruthlessly Refuse Square Deal To Majority Of Men And Women Who Comprise The Party

First Union, Numbering Six Hundred Will Walk Out Tomorrow — Eleven "Standard" Unions Continue Meetings In Effort to Reach Agreement on Course of Action.

Following are the railroad strike developments today: Chicago: The Railroad Labor Board, having failed in its conference with the brotherhood leaders last night sent its report to President Harding.

Eleven "standard" unions continued meetings in an effort to reach a common agreement on the stand they will take in event a strike takes place.

Managers of the Western roads met to discuss plans to keep the roads in operation.

Washington: Government officials awaited official report from the labor board before taking the next step in an effort to prevent the walkout.

Cleveland: Brotherhood chiefs returned to their headquarters and continued their plans.

St. Louis: Managers of the Southwestern roads met to arrange their program for operation of the roads in the event of a strike.

San Antonio: Six hundred members of Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, employed on International and Great Northern railroads prepared to walk out at noon tomorrow, the first union authorized to quit under the strike orders issued here last Saturday.

Chicago, Oct. 21.—Lack of any provision by the unions for suspending the railroad strike called for October 30 made it impossible to accept the plan offered by the United States Railroad Labor Board yesterday it was said today in union circles.

The board, it was said, presented three proposals to the presidents of the big four brotherhoods and the switchmen's union. They were:

- 1—The railroad to make a reduction in freight rates corresponding to the wage reduction of July 1, less such reductions as have already been made since that date.

- 2—The roads to refrain from asking the United States Railroad Labor Board for a further wage reduction until the last cut has been translated into rate reductions.

- 3—The unions to suspend or withdraw their strike order.

The five unions' presidents were willing to accept the first two, but declared they had made no arrangements for suspending their strike and any settlement must be made before October 30, or a walkout would automatically become effective.

The board, it was reported today, assured the union leaders that the railroad could not get a decision for months even if they filed their proposed request for a ten per cent. wage reduction immediately.

The board is understood to have pointed out that cases now on the docket would prevent taking up the railroad's application before next March and that the bulk of testimony naturally expected in the case would be heard in the summer.

The railroad brotherhood leaders made no effort to conceal their disappointment that the board had nothing else to offer. In union circles today was a seeming resignation to the belief that the strike now is inevitable, unless President Harding assumes the initiative with some drastic step.

Irish Peace Parley Has Adjourned

London, Oct. 21.—The threatened break up of the Irish peace conference today over the obstacle of recalcitrant Ulster failed to take place. After a session of nearly two hours the parley adjourned this afternoon until Monday afternoon. The Sinn Féin delegates, however, were not official residence shortly after 1 o'clock and hurried to their headquarters for a consultation among themselves.

The stand pat attitude of the Ulster Unionists and Eamon De Valera's message to the pope saying Ireland would insist upon independence had cast dark clouds upon the peace horizon when the conference was renewed.

The times charges that irreconcilable forces in England are deliberately working to wreck the Irish conference and that it gained strength from De Valera's telegram to Rome.

JAILED FOR STEALING COAT.

Arrested yesterday afternoon in the local railroad station, as he was waiting for a New York train, James Merritt, of 86 Wallace street, was arraigned in the City court today and sentenced to 10 days in jail, on a charge of stealing a fur coat owned by Ernest Fields, also of 86 Wallace street.

Merritt was arrested on the complaint of Mary Adkins, who told the police that the man assaulted her when she tried to persuade him to leave without taking the coat. The arrest caused considerable excitement in the station.

WANTS HER FREEDOM.

Eleanor Mitchell Nichols of Stamford, asks a divorce from Donald Nichols, Jr., of New York City, claiming desertion since Sept. 15, 1918. The couple were married April 22, 1902, and have two minor children, 17 and 11, of which she asks the custody.

Majority of Membership of 6th District Republican Women's Club Rebels Against Machine.

A majority of the membership of the Sixth District Republican Women's club, which was one of the largest and most energetic in Bridgeport, have rebelled against the Republican machine, and the organization has split into two parts.

The smaller part, which appears to control the club funds, meets at the home of Mrs. Grace M. Penny, 3615 Main street, was president of the club when the rebellion began and tried to keep the organization neutral. The climax of the disturbance came when the good government women began to canvass the district in the interest of Town Chairman John A. Leonard, who was deposited last night by the Republican machine delegates.

The Wilson group, implored Mrs. Penny to remain. The good government group pressed her to retire. She resigned. So did Mrs. Grace M. Stratton, who was vice president. Mrs. Fred Miles was elected.

The anti-administration women led by the secretary of the club, Mrs. Roff, refused to meet at Mrs. Roff's house, and said that all meetings should be held at the club rooms.

They occurred in the last two months, according to Mrs. Roff, the group which still meets in the club rooms on Main street is the original club because they gather in the regular meeting place. Mrs. Miles is now acting president of the administration group which Mrs. Roff is also a member of the Wilson followers.

The fund in the Sixth District Republican women's treasury is in the possession of the Wilson followers.

Robinson Explained His Stand

City Clerk J. Alex. H. Robinson stated this morning that he went before the delegates in caucus last night and notified them that where he was elected Mayor Wilson had been elected Chairman. He told them that he was not seeking the position but that if he were elected he would follow the wishes of Mayor Wilson in reorganizing the Town committee and he wanted them to know ahead of time what his attitude would be. He said that he felt that Mayor Wilson had won out for the head of the ticket, it was up to all the Republicans to back him up and to present a unified front.

In accordance with his views on the subject he will hold a conference this afternoon with the mayor and with Mrs. Peck and other leaders to determine the make up of the committee.

It is known that several of the present district heads are sure to be dropped, and he who will take their place is purely a matter of speculation so far. The only thing that is known is that when the committee has been elected, it will be strictly an administration affair. It was this attitude of changing the party rules so that Wilson could have anything that he wanted that particularly disheartened the League delegates last night.

In addition to having lost that faction of the party the mayor stands good chance of losing a great many others which have been known all along as machine elements. The bolt of Primrose is probably only one of those which will come within the next few days. If Primrose is deposed, as he undoubtedly will be, it is more than likely that he will also desert the cause of Mayor Wilson.

At this afternoon's conference plans for the coming campaign will also be discussed. The mayor stated this morning that although he did not have any definite plans as yet he would have an active speaking campaign, beginning probably some time next week. He refused to comment on the criticisms of the League men on the way his supporters had gained control of the party machinery.

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Damage In Storehouse Fire \$1,800

Starting in the rear on the second floor near a stairway, fire swept through a storehouse owned by Augustus Gunnara, at 133 Calhoun avenue early this morning, and totally destroyed the building and its contents. The damage was figured today at \$1,800. Fire department officials have started an investigation to determine the origin of the blaze.

The owner, who conducts a grocery and butcher store in Linen avenue, used the building, a two and one-half story structure, for storing surplus stock. He told the firemen that matches were stored in the place along with other goods, and it may have been these that started the conflagration.

The blaze was first noticed by a pedestrian at 2:15 o'clock this morning, and an alarm was immediately turned in from Box No. 332. A few minutes later another alarm was sent in from Box No. 342. By the time the firemen arrived, the building was fairly ablaze and there was but little chance to remove the stored goods.

Firemen have estimated the loss at \$800 on the building, and \$1,000 on the stock. No one was injured in fighting the flames.

Communists Come Here To Cause Trouble

Paris, Oct. 21.—(By the A. P.)—A French police official asserted today that the communists are planning to cause trouble in the city.

They are planning to cause trouble in the city by bringing the Western supplies to the Eastern cities.

Among the thousands of communists who are coming here to cause trouble, many are planning to bring the Western supplies to the Eastern cities.

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Merchants Prepared For Strike

Suspension of local service on the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad as a result of the nation-wide trainmen's strike, will prove a serious proposition to the thousands of commuters coming to and from Bridgeport each day.

Manufacturers and retailers, while unable to secure shipments from the far West, will be provided with an adequate transportation facilities to New York and through New England, but the commuters will have practically no recourse whatsoever.

Several motor transportation lines between Bridgeport and New York and Boston will be augmented in case the strike materializes by an emergency service that will reach every important business and commercial center in New England through New York, and as far south as New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Several of the larger retailers in the city have a lot of knickerbockers in operation that will more than fill their needs, and is adequate to convey shipments from all nearby points.

While discussing the situation today, one of the largest retailers said, "The majority of merchants are already preparing to meet the crisis by having some system or other of bringing the Western supplies to the Eastern cities."

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Machine Crowd Change Rules in Fifth Inning to Entrench Themselves, But Refuse Equal Representation to Republicans in All Districts — Caucus Lasts Two Hours — Matters of Principle Cannot Be Compromised Assert Leaders For Good Government.

The fifteen delegates who represent a majority of the thousands of votes cast in the Republican primary tried in vain, last night, as Delegate A. M. Cooper expressed it, to "Open the door and let the Republican party in."

Mr. Cooper offered an amendment to the rules, which while leaving the Third District three delegates as at present, increased the delegations of the larger Republican districts.

The effect of the resolution was to make the delegate conventions of the Republican party representative of the actual Republican men and women residing in the several district.

Although he was beaten by 718 votes in the primaries, Mayor Clifford B. Wilson was nevertheless enabled, owing to the inequalities of the system of representation, to get a majority of the delegates.

The bitterest part of the fight against the machine change of rules, by which the town chairman will be able to displace any district chairman not acceptable to the mayor was made in a two hour caucus which preceded the convention.

"We tried to put some of our own ideas through in the caucus but the steam roller was in good working order. As long as an iniquity of the party has a majority of the delegates there is nothing for us to do but register our protest against the proceedings."

In these words Andrew M. Cooper summed up the attitude of the Voters' League on the floor of the convention last night after the League had battled for two hours in caucus against the majority without being able to accomplish anything.

The story of the meeting could also be completely described by the figures 21 to 15. The same line-up that was in evidence last week was there again last night the administration delegates refused to vote on the measure of their demands. Mr. Cooper asked for a roll call vote on each measure and each time the secretary announced the same figures after the (Continued on Page Nine.)

How Open Door Rule Would Work In Primaries

Much curiosity was expressed in political circles, this morning, as to the effect of the Open Door amendment which Andrew M. Cooper offered in the Republican convention last night.

The most important change was that which hereafter would secure the nomination of the mayor by direct primary vote.

In the recent primary the delegates opposed to the Republican candidate for mayor got more than 4,000 votes and had a majority of 148.

Under the Cooper rule the candidate with the majority vote would have been nominated.

Under the Cooper rule the places on the Republican ticket other than mayor would be selected by delegates in convention, as at present.

Each district would choose one delegate for the Open Door rule the candidate who voted for the Republican candidate for mayor in the election next preceding, and one for each major fraction of 17.

The last preceding election for mayor was in 1918. The Third District cast the smallest number of votes, 489. The Third District, under the rule would have had three delegates, as at present, because 175 divides twice into 489, and leaves a major fraction which would entitle to three delegates.

The Fifth District cast 1,286 votes for the Republican candidate for mayor and would be entitled to seven delegates. The apportionment for all the districts is shown as follows.

Under the Cooper, or Open Door plan, the delegates would be substantially represent the Republicans and it would not be easy for a large majority of the party to be set aside by the vote.

Here is the way the convention would look, if the delegates had been those under the Open Door Plan:

Mayor Delegates
District 1919 4

First 602 4
Second 665 4
Third 469 3
Fourth 1,161 6
Fifth 1,286 7
Sixth 1,429 8
Seventh 717 4
Eighth 1,161 6
Ninth 1,200 7
Tenth 545 3
Eleventh 471 3
Twelfth 1,750 10

Motorboat Mystery Is Exploded

Mystery surrounding the finding of a deserted motorboat adrift in the local harbor Wednesday afternoon, was cleared up by the police last night, when four men who had gone fishing in the craft reported that they were safe and sound at home.

The boat was purchased by a local man in New Jersey last Sunday, and the owner with three friends started out on a fishing trip Wednesday morning. They went ashore at Middle Ground light, and the boat which was left unmoored, promptly floated away.

Some time later, the marooned fishermen were taken off the island by Capt. Edward Cowell, of the motorboat "Pearl," and during the afternoon the runaway craft was brought to dock by Captain Edward Morton, of the oysterboat "Conkling."

Arraigned in the City court this morning, charged with violating the liquor law on three counts, Minor Buckley, one of the proprietors of Mahoney and Buckley's saloon at 1,447 Main street, promised that he would take down the saloon and move to another place.

The case of Frank Clancy, proprietor of a saloon at 792 Railroad avenue, who was also arrested yesterday for violating the liquor laws, was continued until October 27, by the City court today. Three quarts of alleged whiskey were found in the saloon by the police.

Frank Hall, owner of a grocery store at 824 Spruce street, was fined \$50 for keeping a place where liquor was sold to be for sale. While Hall was working in a local factory yesterday, a policeman visited the grocery store, and showed a search warrant to the man's wife. The woman is alleged to have run into a pantry, and attempted to destroy a bottle of liquor. Hall told the court today that he purchased the "booze" from a stranger, and that his wife used it as a medicine. He denied that he had ever sold any liquor.

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Raid Liner Got Jag On Red Pepper High balls

New York, Oct. 21.—Quantities of morphine, heroin and whiskey valued at \$800,000 were seized by customs officials today in a prearranged raid upon the liner "Havanna," en route to New York.

Three arrests were made following the raid. The ship's crew in the liner "Havanna" were arrested.

Customs officials said agents abroad had cooperated with New York authorities to stop importation of liquor and drugs and that these agents had notified New York officials that the contraband hidden by members of the crew was aboard the liner.

Buffalo Bill's Widow Is Dead

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